

AFRO SAMURAI®



TAKASHI OKAZAKI

1

A TOR/SEVEN SEAS BOOK

AFO SAMURAI®

VOLUME 1



TAKASHI
OKAZAKI

AFRO

SAMURAI®

VOLUME 1

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AFRO SAMURAI VOL. 1

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AFTO SAMURAI

#01



WAIT HERE...

IT'LL ALL
BE OVER SOON.



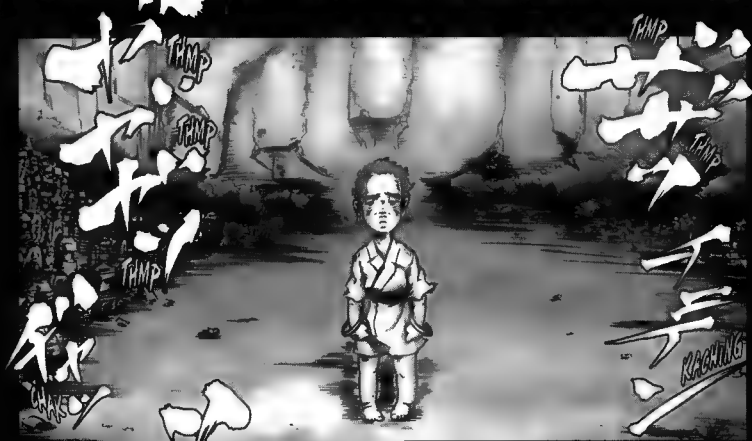


LONG TIME NO
SEE, NO. 1.

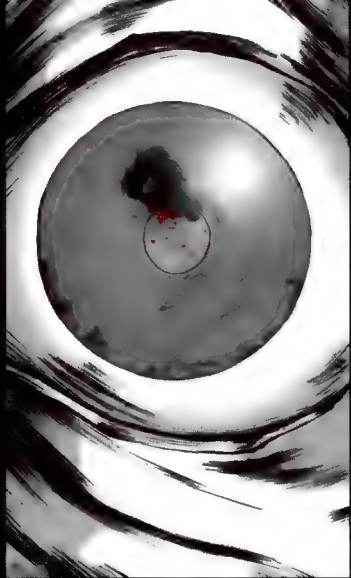


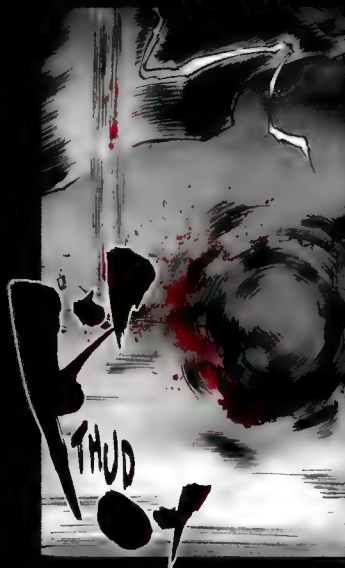
YEAH...
LET'S DO THIS,
NO. 2.





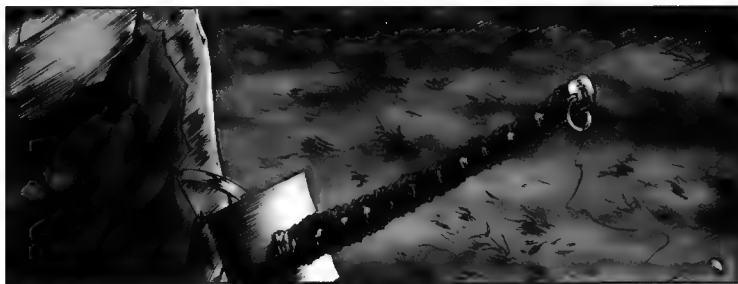














YO, YOU WITH THE AFRO!
KILLIN'S OUR THING, YA DIG?
WE DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR
LIFE. WHAT WE CARE ABOUT
IS THE NO. 2 HEADBAND
YOU'RE WEARING!

I DUNNO HOW MUCH THAT
THING'S REALLY WORTH,
BUT THERE'S A BIG OL'
REWARD IN STORE!



NOW WE'RE NOT LOOKIN'
TO KILL NO ONE WE DON'T
HAVE TO. YOU'RE A KILLER,
I'M SURE YOU UNDER-
STAND.



AND, THEY DO SAY
THERE'S STRENGTH
IN NUMBERS...
RIGHT?



SO HOW'S ABOUT JUST
HANDING IT OVER NICE
AND EASY?

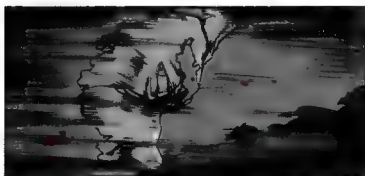
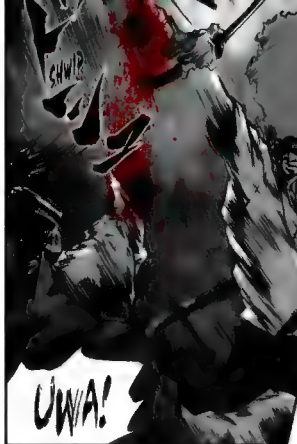














OH OH O. ALL THOSE
PROFESSIONALS AND
THEY STILL COULDN'T
BEAT HIM.



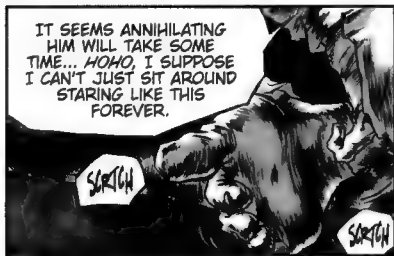
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO
MAKE IT THIS FAR PAST
MY TRAPS. HE REALLY
IS NO. 2.



THAT HEADBAND ISN'T
JUST FOR SHOW. IT'S
PROOF THAT HE'S THE
SECOND STRONGEST
MAN IN THE WORLD.



IT SEEMS ANNIHILATING
HIM WILL TAKE SOME
TIME... HOHO, I SUPPOSE
I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND
STARING LIKE THIS
FOREVER.

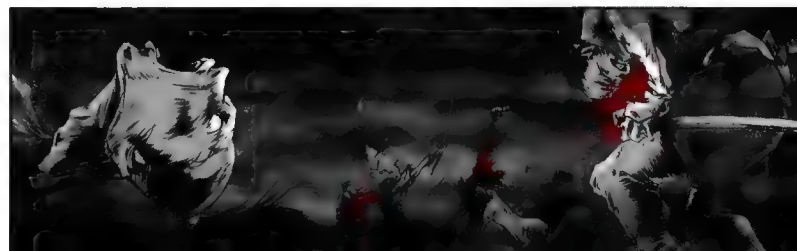
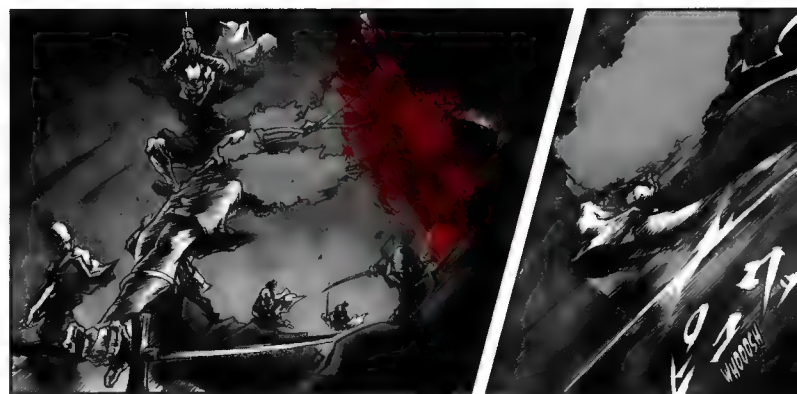


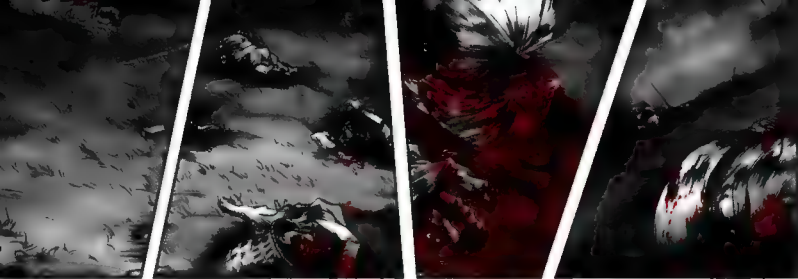
AT THIS POINT,
IT'S OUT OF
MY HANDS.



TIME TO HAND IT
OVER TO MY
BROTHERS UP IN
TECCHISEN.
OH OH O.





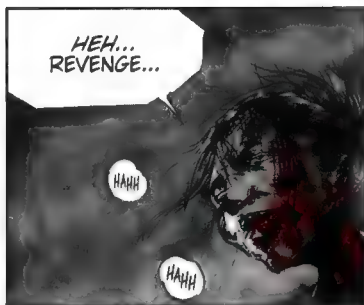




IT'S JUST
REVENGE.



HEH...
REVENGE...



WHAT A
JOKE...

CLANG





TWO, YOU'VE DONE WELL. GO AHEAD AND START MAKING YOUR WAY BACK HOME.



WE'VE GOT PREPARATIONS IN PROGRESS TO INTERCEPT HIM.

MM...



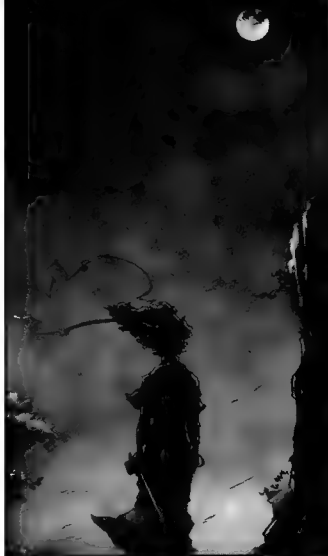
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WE'VE GOT ALL THE DATA YOU'VE COLLECTED ON NO. 2. OUR COUNTER STRATEGY IS INFALLIBLE.

WE JUST NEED TO TAKE THAT HEADBAND FROM HIM TO OBTAIN THE "DIVINE POWER."



IT IS THE DESTINY OF THE EMPTY SEVEN TO WIELD THAT POWER. EHHHEHEHEHEH...









AFRO SAMURAI

#02







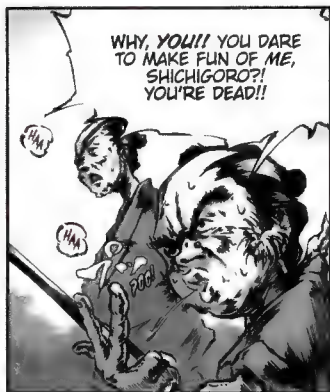


OH, WHY THAT SOUNDS LIKE
THE AFTERNOON SQUAWKING OF
KASHIMOTO! HOW'S THE ARM
DOING, YOU OLD DOG?

KASHI-
MOTO!



WHY, YOU!!! YOU DARE
TO MAKE FUN OF ME,
SHICHIGORO?!
YOU'RE DEAD!!



NOW, NOW, WE DON'T
WANT TO CAUSE AN
ACCIDENT HERE. LET'S
GET AWAY FROM THIS
ROAD, HUH?

GET
AWAY!

H...HUH?

HEY, YOU! YEAH, RONIN
OVER THERE! WOULD YOU
BE SO KIND? SORRY TO
BUG YOU WHILE YOU'RE
RESTING, BUT...

BUT!



SORRY, KOTARO, NO
FISHING TODAY. NOW
SCAMPER ON BACK TO
OI-CHAN'S PLACE.

OKEY!

CUT THE CRAP,
SMART-ASS!
NOW'S NO TIME
TO WORRY ABOUT
OTHER PEOPLE!

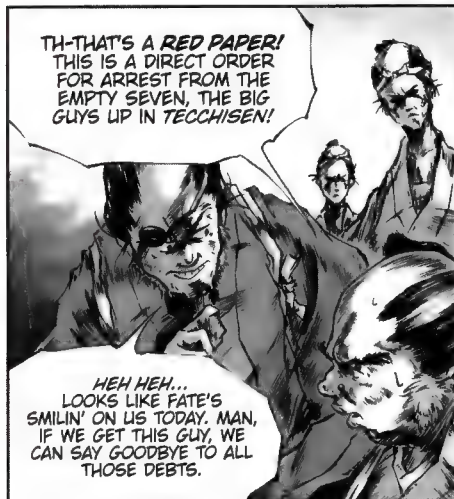
B...BOSS!

SKRACH

OW, THAT HURTS,
YOU IMBECILE!
WHATTAYA WANT?!



THAT GUY...
HE'S--!



TH-THAT'S A RED PAPER!
THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER
FOR ARREST FROM THE
EMPTY SEVEN, THE BIG
GUYS UP IN TECCHISEN!

HEH HEH...
LOOKS LIKE FATE'S
SMILIN' ON US TODAY. MAN,
IF WE GET THIS GUY, WE
CAN SAY GOODBYE TO ALL
THOSE DEBTS.



C'MON, NOW, IF
WE'RE GONNA DO
THIS THING, LET'S
DO IT ALREADY!



SHICHIGORO!
I DON'T HAVE TIME
FOR YOU ANYMORE!

GO CHASE
YOURSELF
SOMEWHERE!!









HOLY COW! MAN,
YOU'RE GOOD!!
I MEAN, WOW!!



THANKS FOR THAT.
THOSE GUYS WERE
ALWAYS COMING AROUND
HASSLING ME.



HOW'S ABOUT
LETTING ME SHOW
MY GRATITUDE?

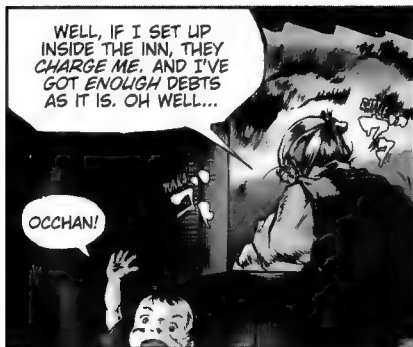


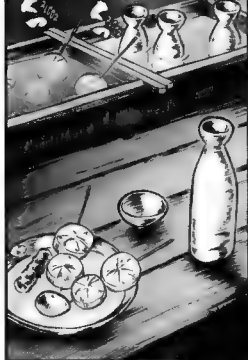
THERE'S AN INN UP THE ROAD
WITH A KILLER ODEN STAND
INSIDE. WELL, ACTUALLY, THE
FOOD'S NOT GREAT, BUT THEY'VE
GOT SOME KILLER SAKE FOR
A VENDOR'S STAND.

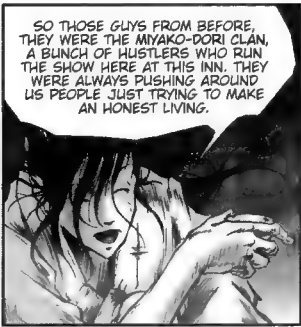


LET ME BUY YOU A
DRINK, HUH?









SO THOSE GUYS FROM BEFORE,
THEY WERE THE MIYAKO-DORI CLAN,
A BUNCH OF HUSTLERS WHO RUIN
THE SHOW HERE AT THIS INN. THEY
WERE ALWAYS PUSHING AROUND
US PEOPLE JUST TRYING TO MAKE
AN HONEST LIVING.



THANKS TO YOU, THINGS
OUGHT TO STAY PRETTY
QUIET AROUND HERE FOR
A WHILE. UNTIL THE NEXT
GANG COMES ALONG,
ANYWAY. HAHHAH!



WHAT'S THAT?
BEDTIME ALREADY,
KOTARO?

YEP.



SORRY, LEMME
PUT THE BRAT
TO SLEEP.

BE BACK
SOON.



OI-CHAN, KEEP HIM
HERE FOR A WHILE,
WILL YA? WE'VE GOT
MORE DRINKING TO
DO TONIGHT!

SURE THING.





SO YOU'RE THE
FABLED NO. 2...?



NOW, JUST
HOLD ON.



RELAX. IF I
WANTED TO KILL
YOU, I WOULD'VE
ALREADY TRIED.



YOU'VE GOT THE FACE OF
A GUY WHO'S BEEN MADE
A TARGET AT EVERY TURN.
LIKE YOU'VE SPENT EVERY
DAY SLIPPING THROUGH THE
FINGERS OF DEATH.

YOU MUST REALLY
BE SOMETHIN' TO
MAKE IT THIS FAR.



THE ONES AFTER YOU ARE A
NEFARIOUS GROUP. THEY'RE
THE KINGPINS LEADING ALL THE
ASSASSINS OF THE WORLD.

FIVE QUINTUPLET MONKS
LIVING IN *TECCHISEN*,
KNOWN AS THE
"EMPTY SEVEN."



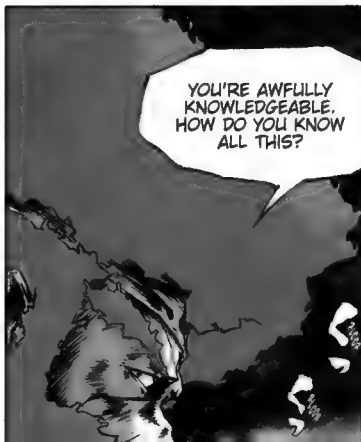
THEY SEND OUT DIRECT ORDERS
CALLED "RED PAPERS" TO ALL SORTS
OF ASSASSIN GROUPS. AND THEY'RE
AFTER YOUR LIFE. NATURALLY, THERE'S
A BIG REWARD FOR IT, TOO.



IT'S ENOUGH MONEY TO LET
YOU LIVE LIKE A KING FOR THE
REST OF YOUR LIFE AND *STILL*
HAVE PLENTY LEFT OVER. YOU
CAN HARDLY BLAME THOSE
ASSASSINS FOR TRYING TO
KILL YOU.



YOU'RE AWFULLY
KNOWLEDGEABLE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW
ALL THIS?



HEH HEH...WELL,
SHICHIGORO AND I
MADE A LIVING OFF
KILLING ONCE TOO. WE
TOOK COUNTLESS LIVES.
JUST LIKE YOU.



WE WORKED UP QUITE A
REPUTATION FOR OURSELVES.
BEFORE YOU KNEW IT WE
WERE DOING SPECIAL "RED
PAPER" JOBS DIRECT FROM
THOSE MONKS.



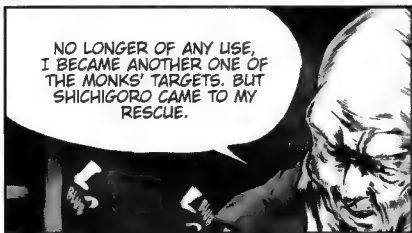
IF I WAS STILL ACTIVE,
I WOULD'VE DONE BATTLE
WITH YOU FOR CERTAIN.



BUT WE BOTCHED A BIG JOB.
TAKE A LOOK. ARM'S NOT
GOOD FOR CUTTING MUCH
BESIDES DAIKON THESE DAYS.
HEH HEH...



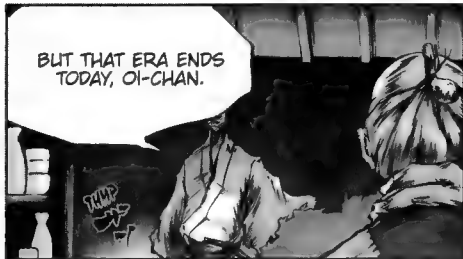
NO LONGER OF ANY USE,
I BECAME ANOTHER ONE OF
THE MONKS' TARGETS. BUT
SHICHIGORO CAME TO MY
RESCUE.



IT'S ALREADY BEEN FIVE YEARS
SINCE ALL THAT. NOW WE TRAVEL
AROUND DRAGGING THIS ODEN
STAND WITH US, SOMEHOW
MANAGING TO SURVIVE.

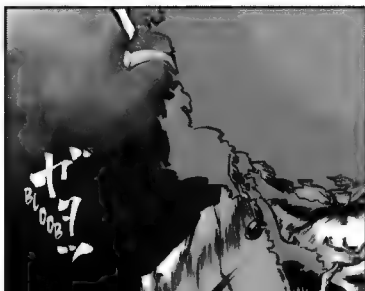
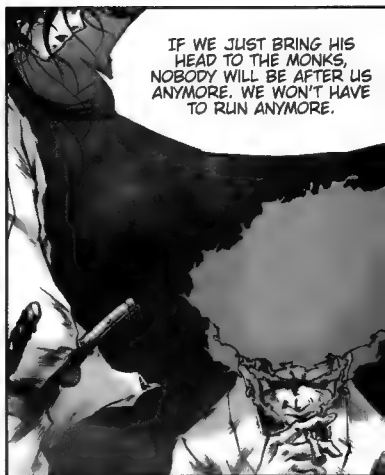


BUT THAT ERA ENDS
TODAY, OI-CHAN.



SHI-SHICHIGORO,
YOU DON'T MEAN--







SO THERE'S
REALLY NO OTHER WAY,
SHICHIGORO?



I WANTED TO
LEAD YOU DOWN A
BRIGHTER PATH.



YOU WERE A BOY RAISED BY
THOSE OLD MONKS TO BE
NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL
OF DESTRUCTION, AND FOR AS
LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER,
I'VE DEDICATED MYSELF TO
SAVING YOU.

BUT IN THE END,
I COULDN'T EVEN
DO THAT.



THERE WASN'T EVEN A HINT
OF MURDEROUSNESS IN YOU
WHEN YOU CUT DOWN THOSE
MEN THIS AFTERNOON.

FOR YOU, KILLING IS NO
DIFFERENT THAN TAKING
A BREATH OF AIR. JUST
LIKE I USED TO BE.

THERE'S NO PLACE
IN THIS WORLD FOR
DANGEROUS MEN LIKE US,
DON'T YOU THINK?

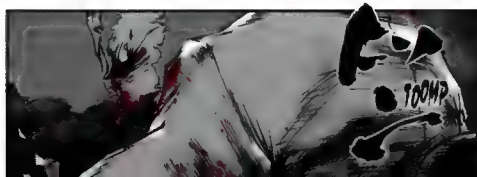
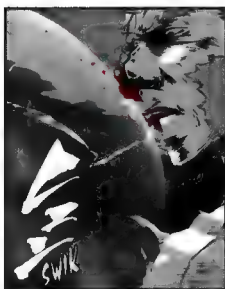
COME ON...

GRRR

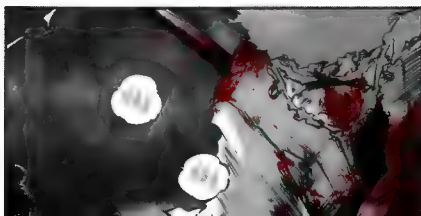
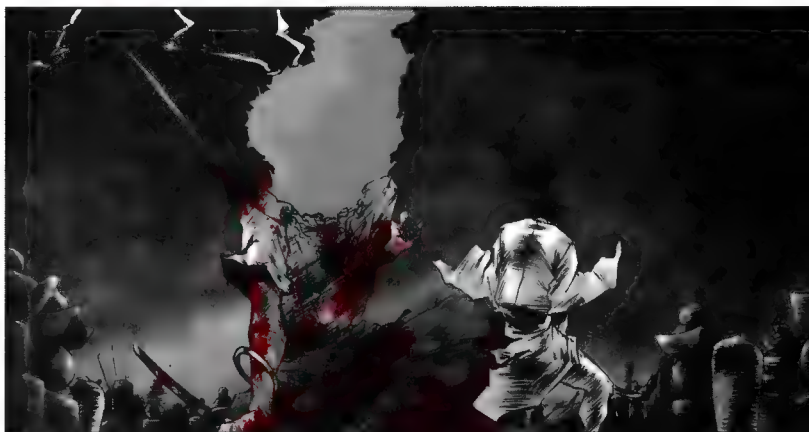
SHIK

チキチキ



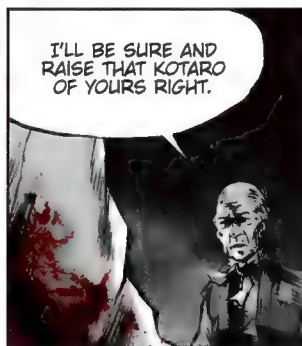








SHICHIGORO...YOU
CAN REST NOW...



I'LL BE SURE AND
RAISE THAT KOTARO
OF YOURS RIGHT.



K...KOTARO...

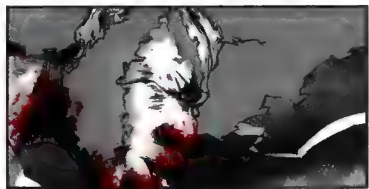
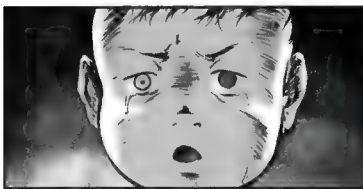


OI-CHAN...
THANK YOU.



SHICHIGORO...





END OF #02



AFRO SAMURAI

#03





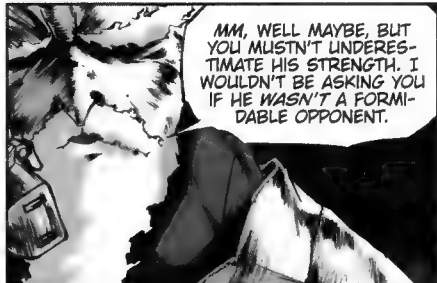
YO, BROTHER ONE!
YOU SEND YOUR ASSASSINS,
AND INTERRUPT **MY** FESTIVITIES.
IF YOU WANT ME DEAD, YOU
COME KILL ME YOUR-OWN-
DAMN-SELF!!!



HA! FEROCIOUS AS EVER,
I SEE, GOROKUBE. ACTUALLY,
IT SEEMS THAT MAN HAS
SHOWN UP IN YOUR NECK OF
THE WOODS. I WAS SIMPLY
HOPING YOU COULD USE
THOSE ASSASSINS AND GET
RID OF HIM.



SHIT, YOU MEAN THAT PUNK
YOU'VE BEEN GUNNING FOR
ALL THESE YEARS? I CAN
HANDLE THAT AFRO'D
ASSHOLE ALONE!



MM, WELL MAYBE, BUT
YOU MUSTN'T UNDERES-
TIMATE HIS STRENGTH. I
WOULDN'T BE ASKING YOU
IF HE WASN'T A FORMI-
DABLE OPPONENT.



YEAH RIGHT, IT'S NOT
EVERY DAY YOU COME
BEGGING ME FOR
FAVORS, RIGHT?



FINE. I'LL DO IT! BUT
SINCE I'LL BE PUTTING
MY OWN ASS ON THE
LINE, HOWSABOUT A
FEW CONDITIONS?



NO. A FIGHT TO THE DEATH BETWEEN THOSE TWO IS JUST WHAT WE NEED. WE WIN REGARDLESS OF WHO DIES. IF GOROKUBE WINS WE'LL JUST SEND THE ASSASSINS WE WERE GOING TO USE TO KILL NO. 2.



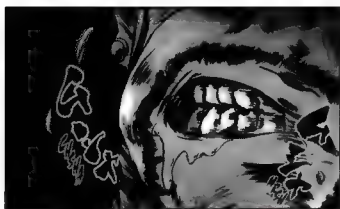
HM...SO IT'S LIKE HITTING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.



FUCK THOSE ASSHOLES! I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH 'EM! I'LL USE NO. 2'S HEAD AS A SHIELD AND SEND 'EM ALL TO HELL!



AH...
AHHH--!



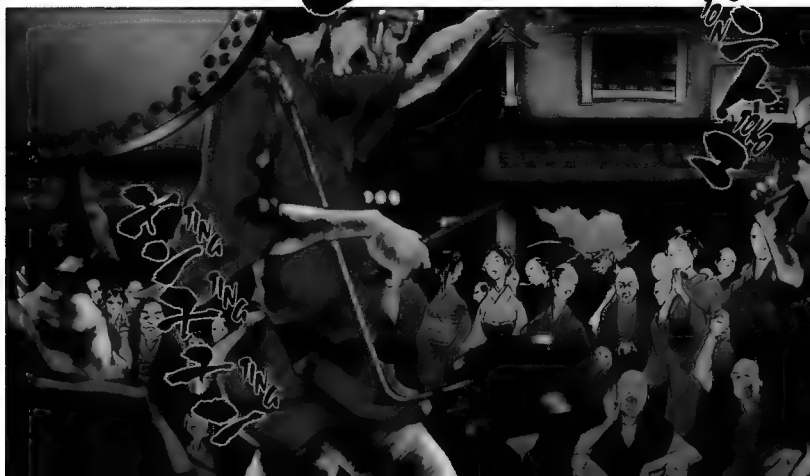
THEN AGAIN, IF HE'S BEEN GIVING THOSE GEEZERS THIS MUCH TROUBLE...

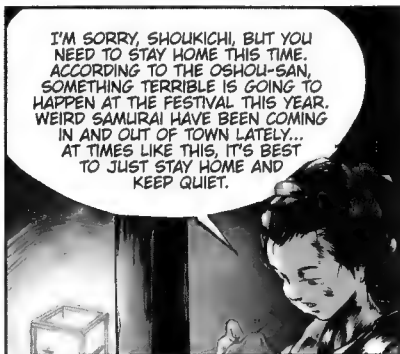
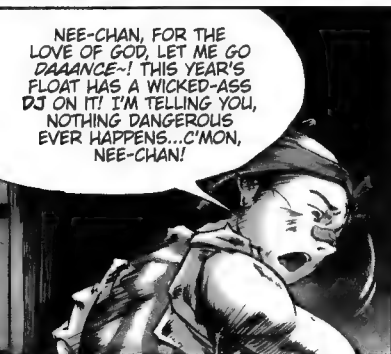


HEH...NO. 2, HUH?
SOUNDS LIKE HE'LL MAKE
FOR A GOOD WARM-UP.
I'LL PLAY WITH HIM FOR
A WHILE, THEN KILL HIM.
GAHAHAHA...







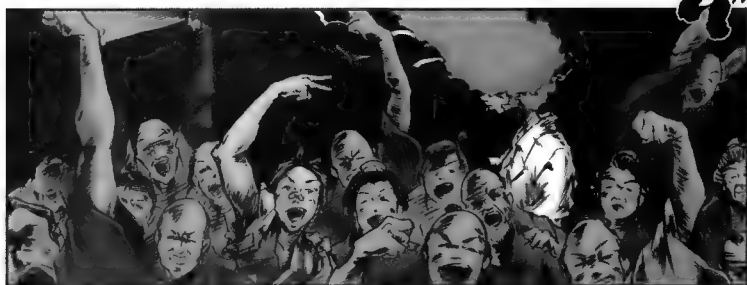




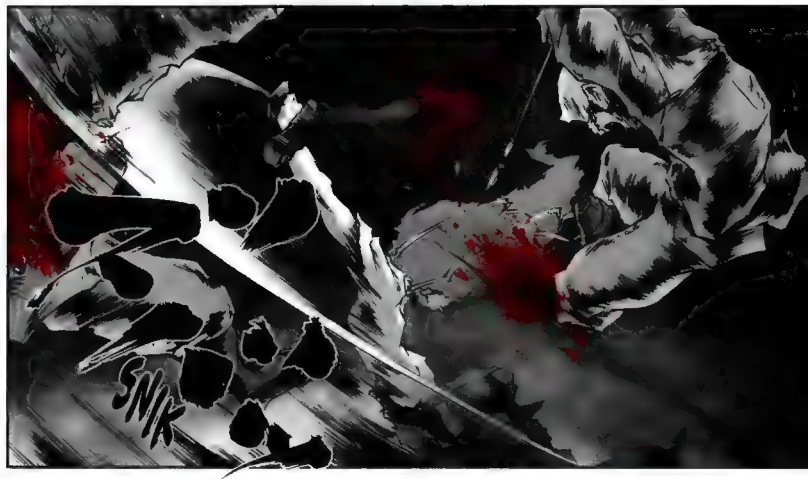
SHOUKICHI, PLEASE STAY HOME, I'M BEGGING YOU. THE OSHOU-SAN PRACTICALLY RAISED US AND HE'S NEVER BEEN WRONG. WHAT WOULD OUR DEAR DEPARTED MOTHER SAY IF I LET SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU?

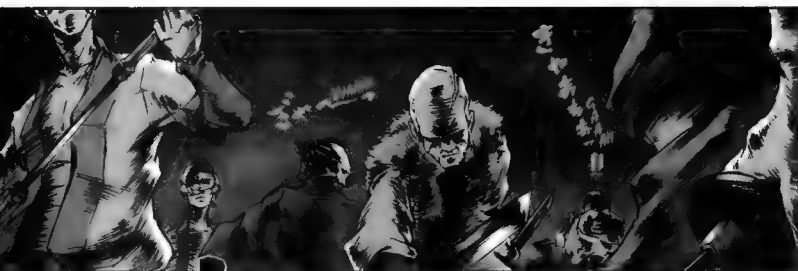
WHY DO YOU *ALWAYS* LISTEN TO THAT DIRTY PRIEST?! YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO LET ME DANCE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T!!

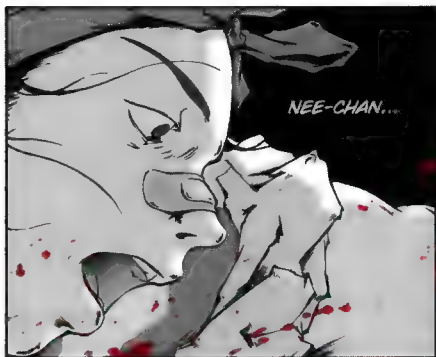


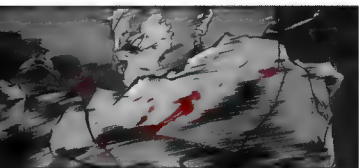


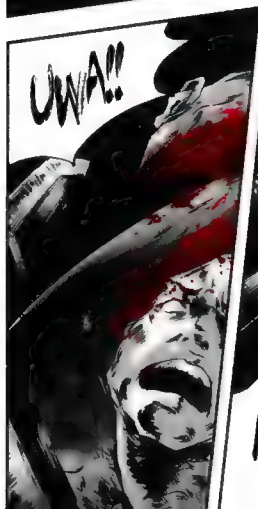
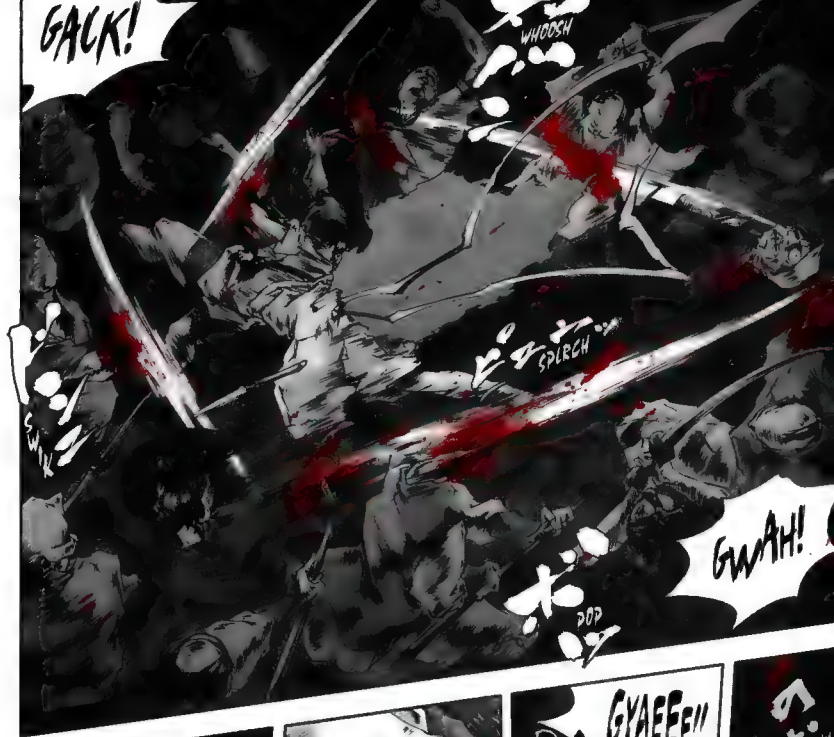




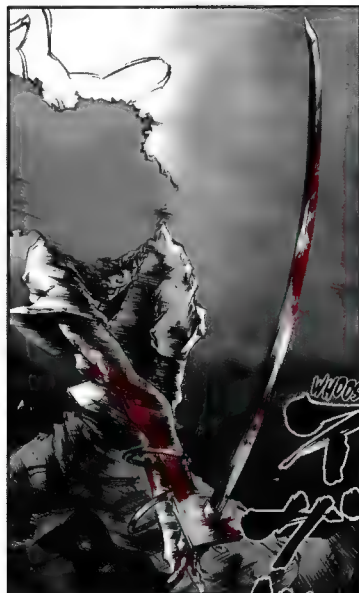




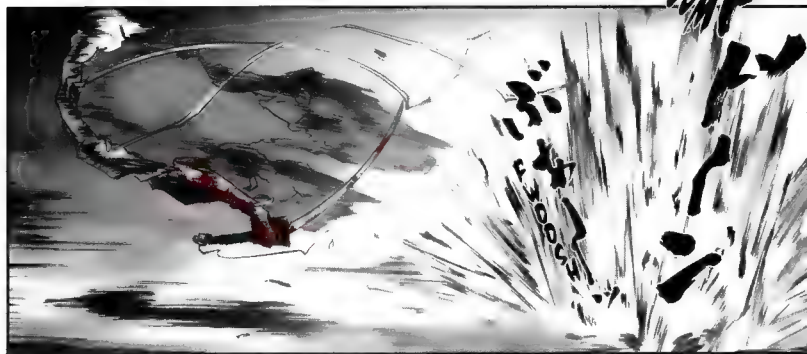


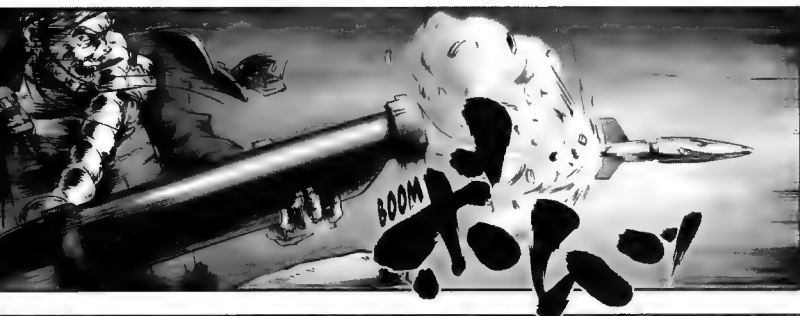




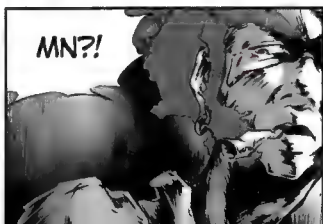


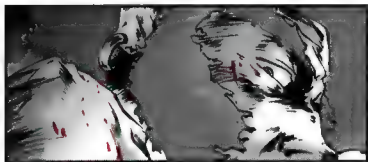




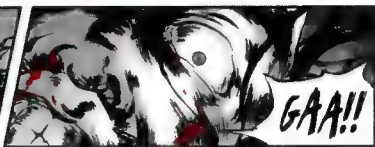
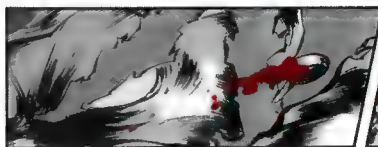
















'EYYY! YO! NO. 2!
OVER HERE!



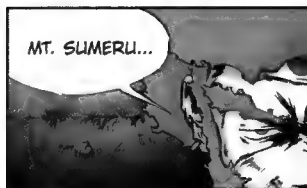
YO YO! I WAS WORRIED YOU
MIGHT'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN
THAT BIG-ASS EXPLOSION.
DAMN! DIDN'T WANT TO BE
WAITIN' AROUND HERE FOR
NOTHING. HEH HEH HEH.



YO!
IT'S BEEN
AGES!



YEAH, MAN. AIGHT, LOOK,
WE GOTTA GO BY BOAT FROM
HERE. IF YOU JUST GO UP THIS
RIVER FOR A FEW DAYS, YOU'LL
GET TO A RAVINE. IT'S RIGHT
BY MT. SUMERU, WHERE NO. 1
IS. FINALLY COMIN' TO THE
END OF YOUR JOURNEY,
M'MAN.



MT. SUMERU...

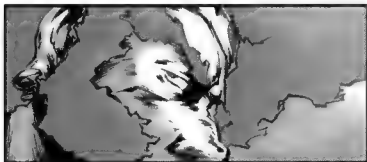


YEAH. BUT...

TO GET TO MT. SLIMERU,
FIRST YOU GOTTA PASS THROUGH
TECCHISEN, THE HIDEOUT FOR
THOSE DAMN OLD MOTHERFUCKERS.
AND THERE'S NO DOUBT THEY'VE
SET UP SOMETHIN' NASTY FOR
YOU TO FALL INTO.



NO. 2, YOU KNOW YOU'VE
ONLY SURVIVED THIS LONG
ON *LUCK*. BUT THAT AIN'T
GONNA DO YOU MUCH GOOD
FROM HERE ON OUT. YOU
SURE YOU WANNA KEEP
GOING?



HEH HEH HEH...
SO THAT'S HOW IT'S
GONNA BE, HUH?
WELL, DON'T SAY I
DIN'T WARN YA.







AFRO SAMURAI

#04







IF YOU MANAGE TO BEST
HIM, WE'LL GIVE YOU
WHATEVER YOU DESIRE,
JUST AS PROMISED!



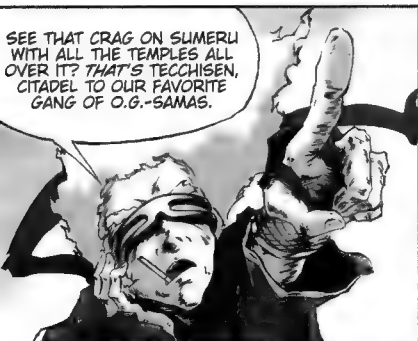
YOUR TARGET IS
JUST ONE MAN. IT'S
AN EASY JOB.



NOW THEN, IN HONOR
OF OUR AGREEMENT...
PLEASE GET TO WORK.



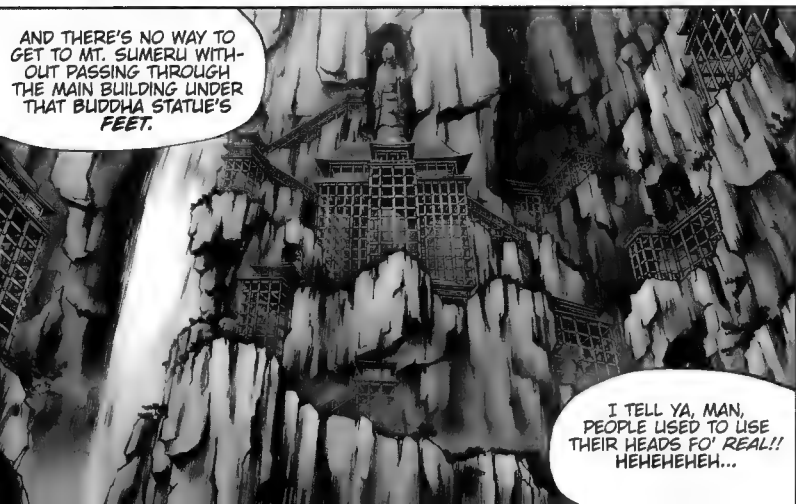
SEE THAT CRAG ON SUMERU
WITH ALL THE TEMPLES ALL
OVER IT? THAT'S TECCHISEN,
CITADEL TO OUR FAVORITE
GANG OF O.G.-SAMAS.



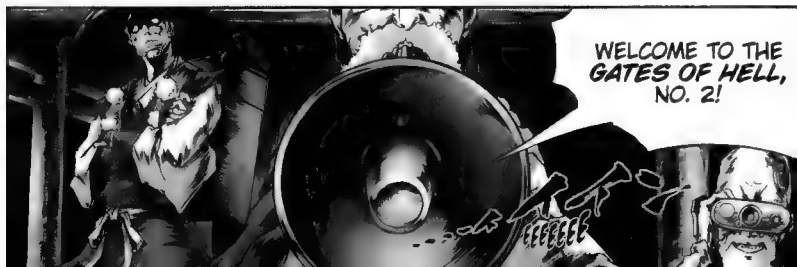
THEY SAY THAT
TEMPLE WAS BUILT
UP YEARS AGO TO
PROTECT MT. SUMERU
FROM BAD GUYS.



AND THERE'S NO WAY TO
GET TO MT. SUMERU WITH-
OUT PASSING THROUGH
THE MAIN BUILDING UNDER
THAT BUDDHA STATUE'S
FEET.



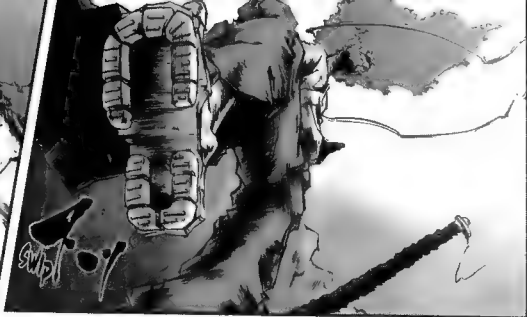
I TELL YA, MAN,
PEOPLE USED TO USE
THEIR HEADS FO' REAL!!
HEHEHEHEH...

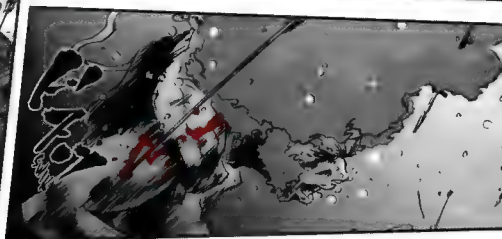


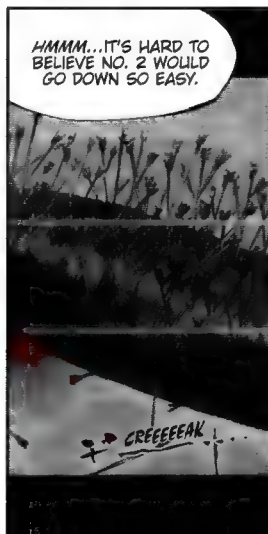
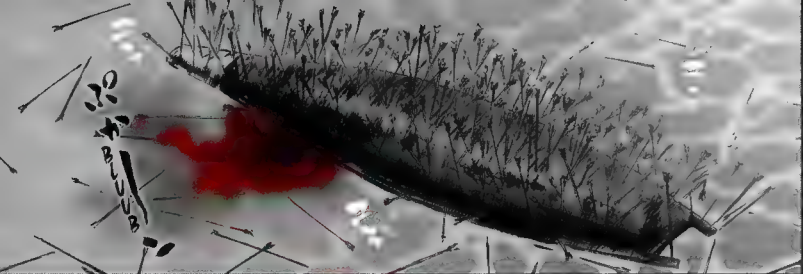


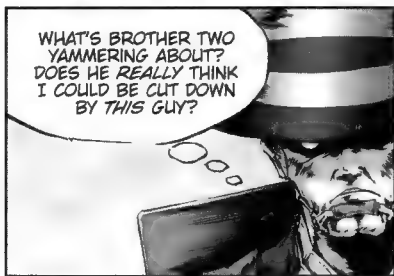
NOW I RETURN
YOU TO *HELL!!*











OH! THERE HE IS!
ROKUTARO, YOUNGEST
OF THE EMPTY SEVEN!
MAN, HE'S HUGE!



KOMOK HAS!! HE'S
BEEN UNDER THE WING
OF THOSE OLD GUYS
SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE
BRAT, LEARNING TO KILL.
SCREWED UP, RIGHT?!



MMM...

BUT I WONDER IF
WE'LL REALLY GET PAID
FOR SUCH A WALK IN
THE PARK.



DAAAAA!!!

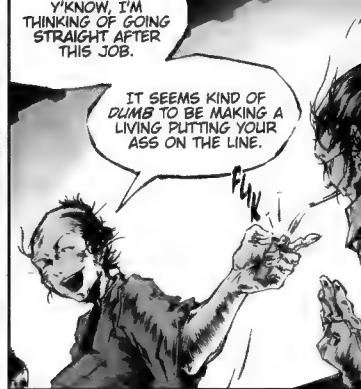


HM?



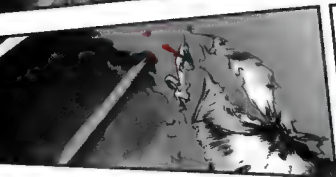
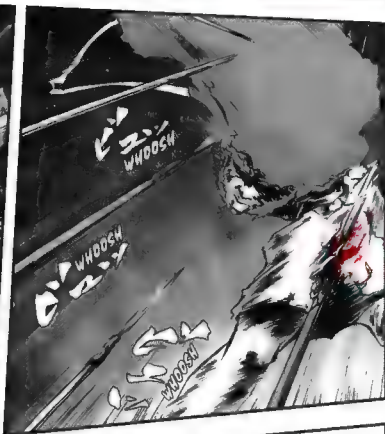
WHA?!









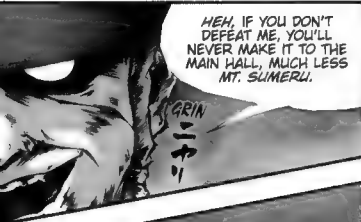




A MOST ROBUST
PERFORMANCE, NO. 2.
BUT I CAN NOT LET
YOU PASS.

A SIMPLE CHALLENGE,
NO. 2! I AM SHINOJIRYU
BOUJUTSU ROKUTARO,
YOUNGEST OF THE
EMPTY SEVEN!

D-DOOM!!

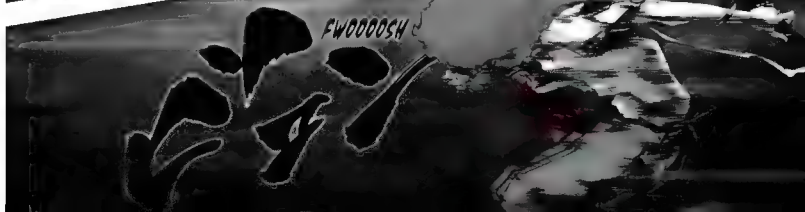
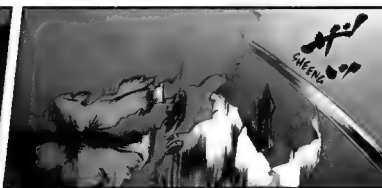


HEH, IF YOU DON'T
DEFEAT ME, YOU'LL
NEVER MAKE IT TO THE
MAIN HALL, MUCH LESS
MT. SUMERU.

GRIN
ニヤリ



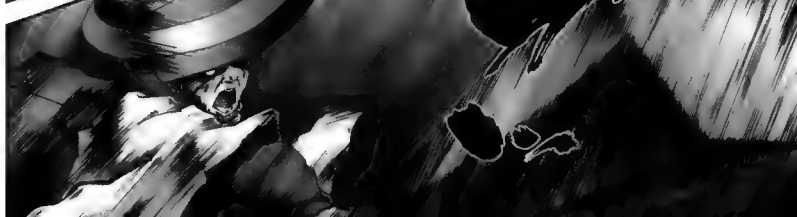
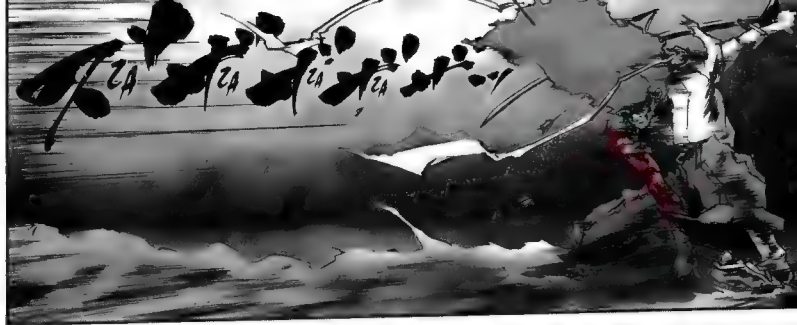
I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE
WOUNDED! YOU'RE SUPPOSED
TO BE THE "SECOND STRON-
GEST MAN IN THE WORLD,"
AFTER ALL.





SEEMS I UNDERESTIMATED YOU A BIT...
YOU ALMOST LIVE UP
TO THE RUMORS.







WHAT?!
YOU DARE USE ME
AS A STEPPING
STOOL?!



**SON OF A
BITCH! YOU'RE
NOT GETTING
AWAY!**





HUIH...AS AMAZING A FIGHT
AS YOU'D EXPECT FROM THE
GREAT NO. 2, I'M PROUD
TO HAVE FACED YOU IN MY
FINAL BATTLE.

BUT IT SEEMS YOU
COULDN'T SLICE ME
IN TWO WITH JUST
ONE HAND.

THE DEFEAT OF
ROKUTARO COMES
AT A PRICE!

FORGIVE ME
BROTHERS!
I LEAVE THE
REST TO YOU!

WHOOOSH

WHOOOSH



SHIT!



HEH HEH. A GOOD SHOW,
NO. 2. YOU'VE KILLED OUR
DEAR ROKUTARO AFTER
ALL OUR TIME AND MONEY
SPENT RAISING HIM.



PLEASE ALLOW
US TO SHOW OUR
AMPLE THANKS.
RIGHT, BROTHER?

MM!



HEHE, NO. 2, HOW DO
YOU PLAN ON FIGHTING
US WITHOUT A WEAPON?
NOW HOW SHALL WE
KILL HIM, BROTHER?

MM.



THE EMPTY SEVEN HAVE
BROKEN THEIR CONTRACT
WITH NO. 1 AND ARE
SCHEMING TO BECOME
NO. 1 THEMSELVES.



THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO
BE PROTECTING HIM
THE SAME AS US.



JUST MAKE SURE NO. 2
DIES, REGARDLESS OF WHO
WINS. IT LOOKS LIKE THE
BROTHERS ARE GOING TO
WIN THIS MATCH, THOUGH.

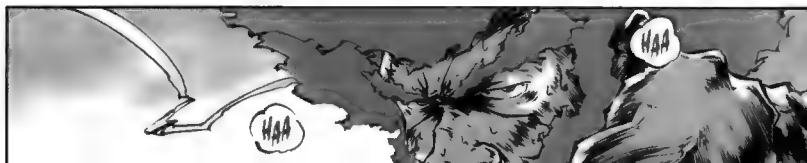
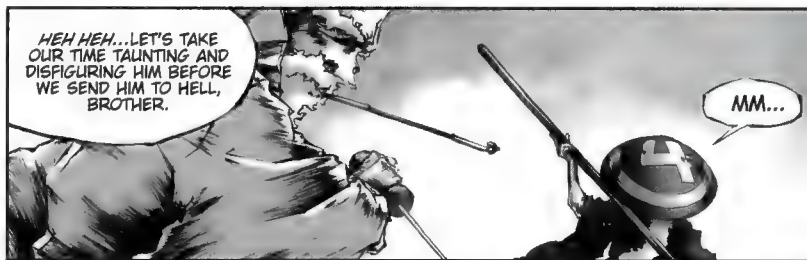






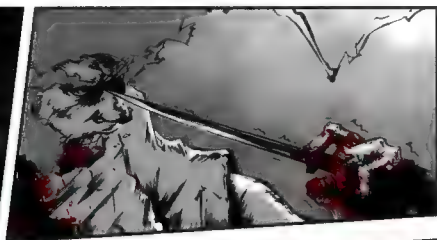
AFRO SAMURAI

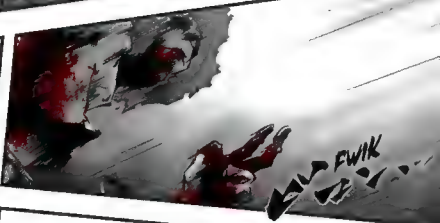
#05

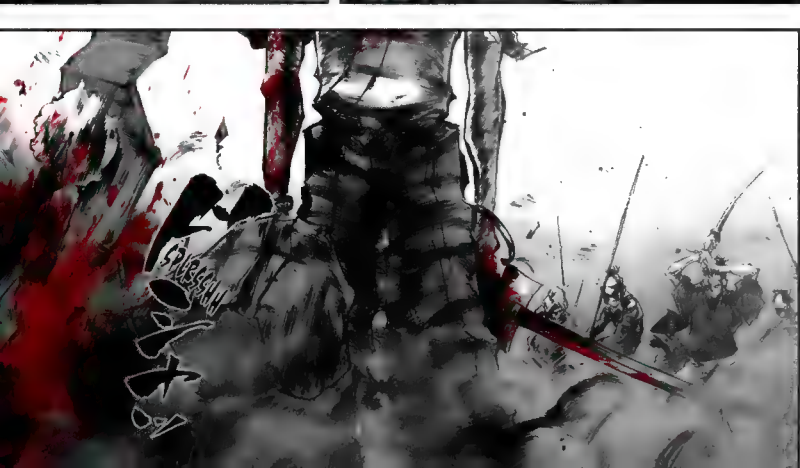


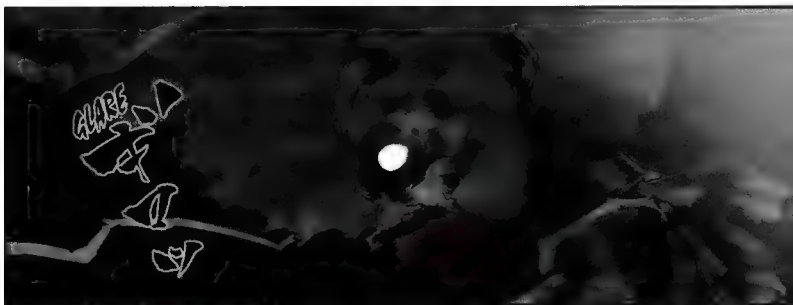
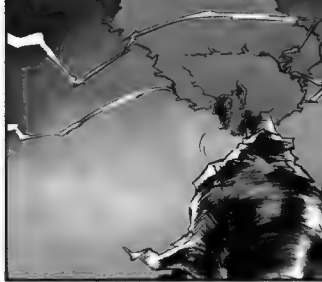










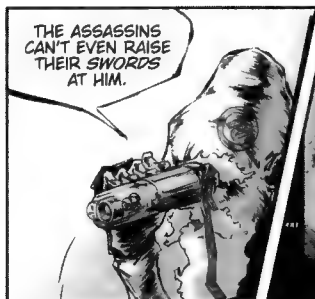




BROTHER FOUR,
BROTHER FIVE, ROKUTARO...
REST IN PEACE. NAMANDABU
NAMANDABU...



BROTHER, IT SEEMS
OUR COAXING HAS
AWAKENED THE
BEAST INSIDE HIM.



THE ASSASSINS
CAN'T EVEN RAISE
THEIR SWORDS
AT HIM.



MOST OF THEM HAVE
ALREADY FLED.



THIS HAS BECOME A MEANING-
LESS ENDEAVOR. LET US FLEE
AS WELL. WE DON'T HAVE MANY
YEARS LEFT AHEAD OF US ANY-
WAY. IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD TO
LIVE OUT OUR REMAINING TIME
PEACEFULLY IN SOME VILLAGE.

I'VE LIVED LONG
ENOUGH...

NO. WE TAKE NO. 1'S
POWER...ETERNAL LIFE...THE
DIVINE POWER...IN ORDER TO
GAIN ETERNAL LIFE...TO CON-
QUER THIS FEAR OF DEATH...
MUTTER MUTTER...

WHAT?!
ETERNAL LIFE?!!

YOU MOCK.

HAHAHAHA! DO YOU
REALLY BELIEVE IN
THAT STUFF?! HAVE
YOU LOST YOUR GOD-
DAMN MIND?!

HMPH. LAUGH IF YOU
WANT TO. I GUESS YOU
HAVEN'T NOTICED IT YET.
THE INESCAPABLE FEAR
OF DEATH, APPROACHING
EVER CLOSER WITH
EACH DAY...

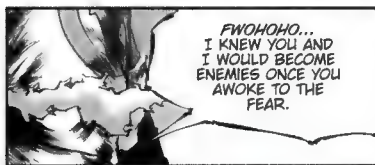
HMMHMM...
YOU MEAN ROKUTA AND
THE OTHERS DIED FOR SUCH
A RIDICULOUS FANTASY?!
THIS IS A FARCE!

YOU'VE LIVED SINCE
THE FIRST CENTURY
AND IT'S STILL NOT
LONG ENOUGH, HUH?
HOW RIDICULOUS.

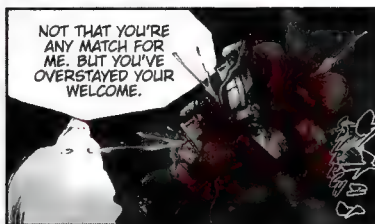
THEN YOU
CAN DIE RIGHT
NOW.



Y...YOU...FOOL! WHAT
HAVE YOU DONE?!
YOU REALLY HAVE
GONE MAD!



FWOHOHO...
I KNEW YOU AND
I WOULD BECOME
ENEMIES ONCE YOU
AWOKE TO THE
FEAR.



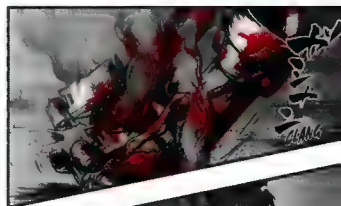
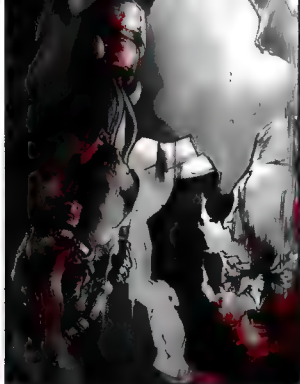
NOT THAT YOU'RE
ANY MATCH FOR
ME. BUT YOU'VE
OVERSTAYED YOUR
WELCOME.

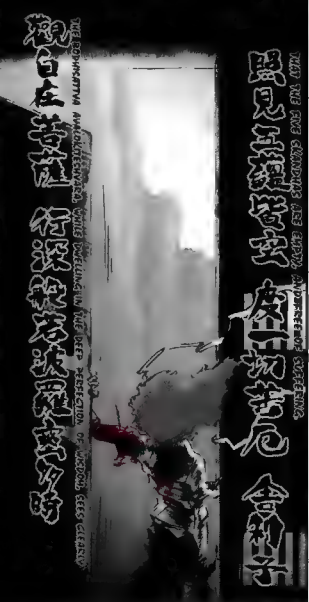
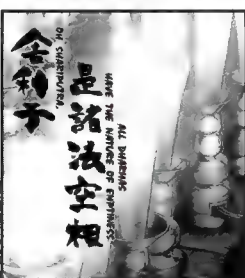


AND BESIDES,
BETWEEN YOU AND
ME...I NEVER
LIKED YOU.



YOU PSYCHOTIC
OLD FART!





WORKS IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF A PERSON
AND ONE A MAN PERSPECTIVE OF A PERSON

依仗若波羅密多改

無也亦無得火 苦後後性

亦無老死不 無苦集滅道

無無明亦無無明不 及至無老死

無也亦無得火 苦後後性

不垢不淨 不增不減 是故空中

觀自在菩薩 行深般若波羅密多時

照見五蘊皆空 度一切苦厄 舍利子

舍利子

是諸汝空相

ALL BUDDHAS

HAVE THE NATURE OF EMPTINESS

ON CAUTION

FEELING, PERCEPTION, MENTALITY,

AND CONSCIOUSNESS ARE ALSO THIS WAY

亦復如是

FORM IS LIMITED EXTREMELY, EXTREMELY IS LIMITED FORM

色即是空 空即是色

EXTREMELY ARE DIFFERENT FROM FORM

色不異空 空不異色

FORM IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM EXTREMELY

WITH THIS SAME EXTREMELY ARE EMPTY, UNLIMITED, DIFFERENT

THEY IS NO DEPENDENCY AND NO DEPENDENCY THERE IS NO OLD AGE AND DEATH

THEY IS NO FORM, NO FEELING, NO PERCEPTION, NO MENTALITY, NO CONSCIOUSNESS

THEY FORMED, PERCEIVED, MENTALLY INTO IN EXTREMELY

不垢不淨 不增不減 是故空中

AND CONSCIOUSNESS
ARE ALSO LIKE THIS
FEELING, PERCEPTION, MENTALITY
亦復如是
受想行識



空即是色
EMPTINESS IS LINKED FORM



色即是空
FORM IS LINKED EMPTINESS

色不異空 空不異色
FORM IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM EMPTINESS
EMPTINESS IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM FORM

度一切苦厄 舍利子
AND FREE OF SUFFERING

照見五蘊皆空
THE FIVE SKANDHAS ARE EMPTY



THE REDUCING, RIDING IN THE REDUCATION OF WISDOM,
AND WAS A KIND FEEL OF IMPASSANCE
苦從茲起 依仗若波羅密多
THERE IS NO WISDOM, AND NO ATTAINMENT

無所取捨
AND NO END TO OLD AGE AND DEATH

不生不死 不增減滅
THERE IS NO BIRTH AND NO DEATH
THERE IS NO GROWING AND NO REDUCING, AND PART

乃五無常
THERE IS NO OLD AGE AND DEATH

無所取捨
THERE IS NO BIRTH, NO DEATH,
NO REDUCING, NO GROWING, NO CONSCIOUSNESS

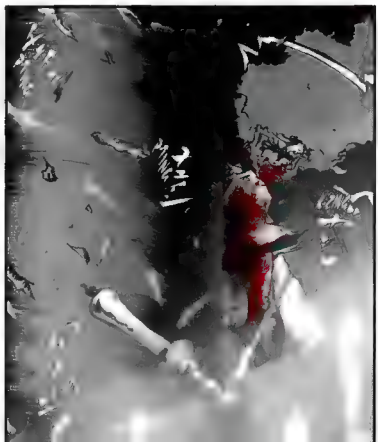
色即是空 空即是色
FORM IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM EMPTINESS
EMPTINESS IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM FORM

不生不滅 不增不減
THERE ARE NAMES FORM AND IMPERIAL
THERE ARE NAMES AND NO REDUCING
不生不滅 是故空中

是諸法空相 不生不滅
ALL PHENOMENA HAVE THE NATURE OF EMPTINESS



GAAAAHAHAHA!!
DIE DIE DIE DIE!!!



WHAT CAN A YOUNG
WHIPPERSNAPPER LIKE YOU
DO? I'M THE ONE SUITED
TO RULE THIS WORLD!





THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S MY
DESTINY AS DECREED BY
GOD HIMSELF! IT'S TIME
TO ACCEPT IT!!



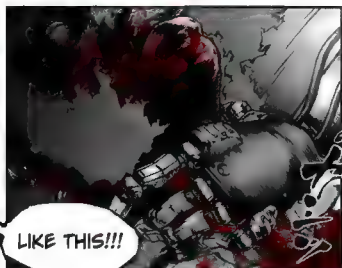
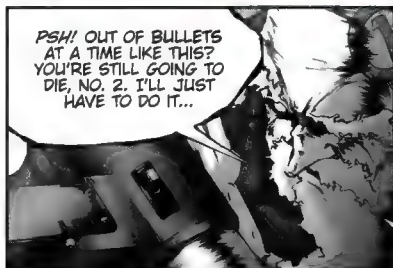
FAREWELL,
NO. 2!!







WHAT'S THIS...**FRIGHTENED**,
ARE YOU? YOU'RE STARING
FACE-TO-FACE WITH **DEATH**.
ONLY THE CHOSEN FEW CAN
EVER HOPE TO ESCAPE THAT
FEAR. **SADLY**, IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU WEREN'T ONE
OF THEM.



HEHEHE...AS LONG AS I
HAVE THE HEADBAND, TAKING
OUT NO. 1 WILL BE A CAKE-
WALK! HE STILL THINKS
I'M ON HIS SIDE.



AT LAST, I WILL
BE A GOD!!

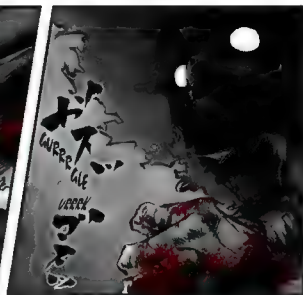


WH-WH-WH...!
WHAT?!

LIWA! WON'T
YOU EVER
JUST DIE?!



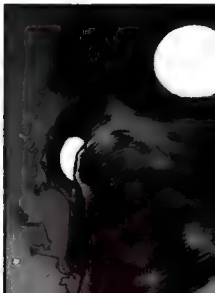
SMACK!

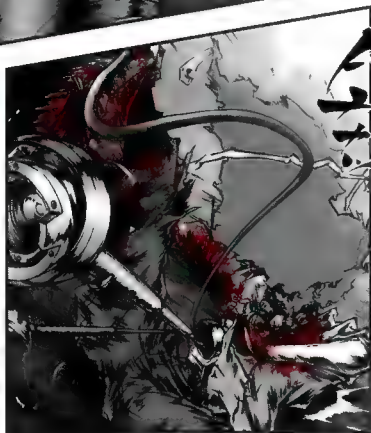
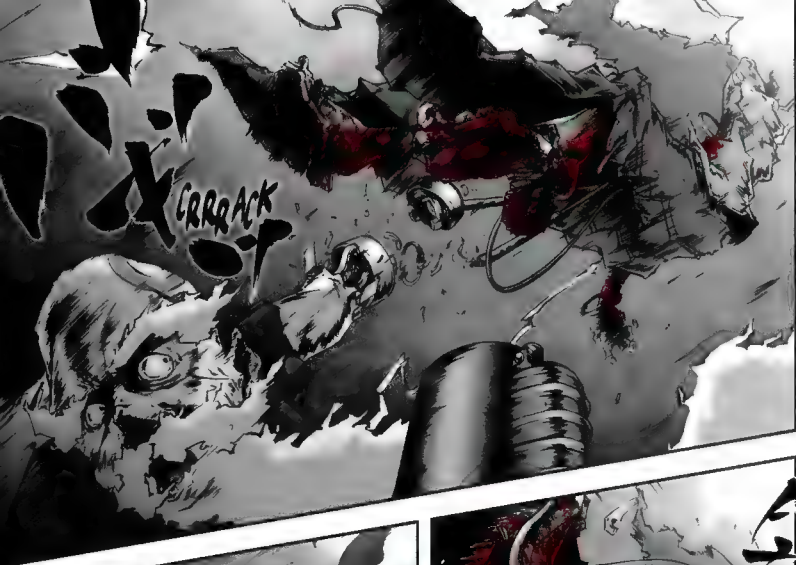


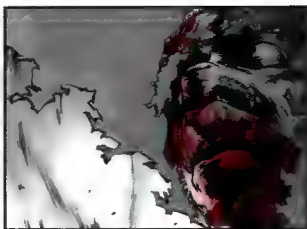
WARR-GLE
WARR-GLE

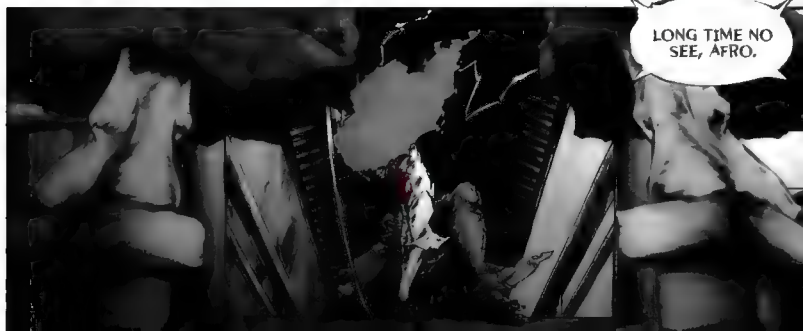
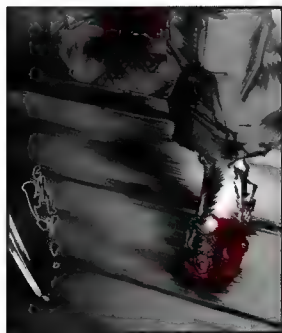


CRACK!



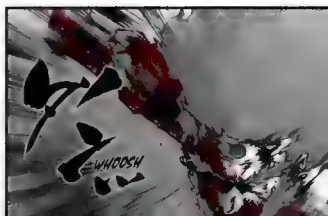
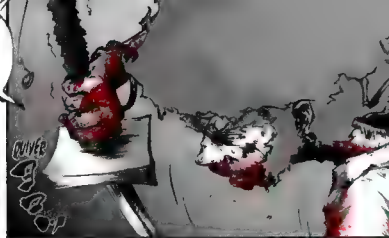






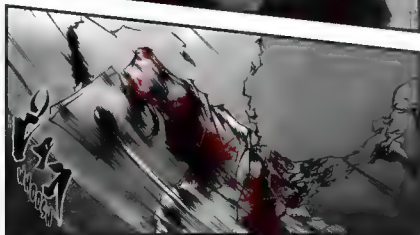
OR NO, I SUPPOSE
I SHOULD CALL
YOU NO. Z NOW.







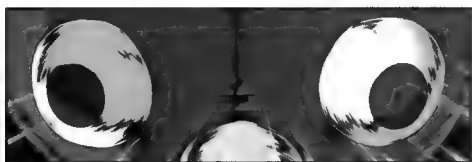
ALL THE LIVES
YOU'VE TAKEN JUST
TO FULFILL YOUR
OWN PERSONAL
VENDETTA...

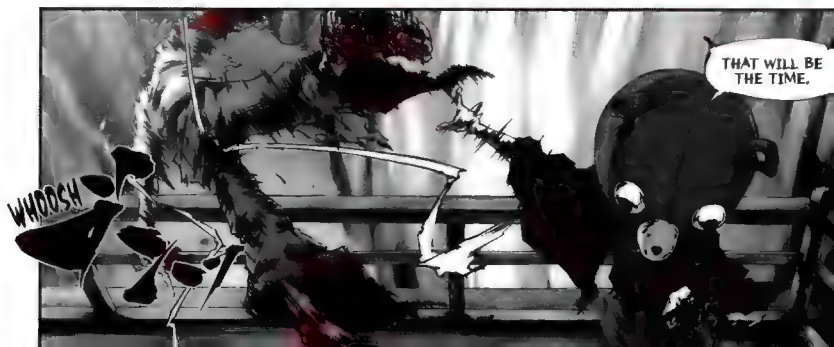


...ALL OF THE
HATRED YOU'VE
SPAWNED BECAUSE
OF IT...



SOONER OR
LATER, YOU'LL
HAVE TO PAY
THE PRICE.







END OF #05



Translation Notes

Chapter 1

Page 20

In the Japanese, the bandit leader scoffs at Afro for attempting an “*iai*” with such a long sword. *Iai* is a technique in which the samurai unsheathes his sword and slices his opponent all in one swift, fluid motion, not unlike a western quick-draw. *Iaidō* is a martial art still practiced today.

Page 25

“Brother” is derived from the Japanese “*ani-ja*.”

Page 29

“*Jii-sama*” or “grandfather.”

Page 31

The name “Brother One” is derived from the Japanese “*Ichino-ji*,” meaning “the digit 1.”

Page 33

Mt. Sumeru - A legendary mountain said to tower over the center of the Earth and serves as a meeting place for the gods. Also known as *Shumisen*.

Chapter 2

Page 43

Tecchisen - A legendary mountain from the Buddhist world map. While *Sumeru* was found in the center of the Earth, *Tecchisen* lay on the very edge of it. Also known as *Cakravada* Mountain.

Page 47

Oden - A type of hotpot stew popular during the cold months.

Page 49

Occhan - A colloquial term of endearment for an elderly person, like “pops.”

Page 54

Daikon - A large Japanese radish used in *oden*.

Chapter 3

Page 76

"Wicked" from the word "sugee," a modern colloquialism meaning "amazing" or "cool" (from "sugoi").

Oshou-san - A Buddhist priest of high rank.

Page 77

"Mother" - from "kaa-san."

Page 87

"Geezer brigade" taken from "jijii-domo."

Chapter 4

Page 106

"O.G.-samas" from "jii-sama-tachi."

Page 112

Rokuta is also known as "Brother Six" in the anime version of *Afro Samurai*. The Kanji for "Rokuta" are in fact the kanji for "six" ("roku") and "ta," a kanji common in male names.

Page 115

Ryou is an old type of Japanese coin. Evidently it was worth a lot more than the modern yen.

Page 125

Kunai - Throwing knives.

Page 128

Brother Four's name in Japanese is "Shi no Ji" following the pattern for all the monk brothers' names, with "shi" meaning "four" and "no ji" meaning "the digit" or "the letter." The only difference is that in Brother Four's case, the "shi" is written with the kanji for "death," also pronounced "shi." So it looks like 死の字 instead of 四の字. The pun is lost in English, although an alternative translation could be "Brother Shi," which a fraction of readers would likely understand, since the four/death connection is one of the more well-spread factoids of Japanese cultural minutiae.

HEART SUTRA

The Heart Sutra is one of the most well-known sutras in Buddhism and is primarily chanted by Zen sects in East Asian Buddhism. As the shortest sutra, it is said to perfectly express the wisdom of Buddha in condensed form, focusing on the Buddhist doctrines of emptiness and non-attachment.

Chapter 5

Page 144

144.1

**Kan-ji-zai-bo-satsu Gyô-jin-han-
nya-ha-ra-mit-ta-ji**

The Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara,
while dwelling in the deep perfection
of wisdom, sees clearly

**Shô-ken-go-un-kai-kuu Do-is-sai-
ku-yaku Sha-ri-shi**

that the five skandhas are empty, and
free of suffering.

144.2

Shiki-fu-i-kuu Ku-fu-i-shiki

Form is not different from emptiness,
emptiness not different from form.

**Shiki-soku-ze-kuu ku-soku-ze-
shiki**

Form is indeed emptiness. Emptiness
is indeed form.

Ju-sô-gyô-shiki Yaku-bu-nyo-ze

Feeling, perception, mentality,
and consciousness are also like this.

144.3

Sha-ri-shi

Oh Shariputra,

Ze-sho-hô-kuu-sô

all dharmas have the nature of
emptiness.

144.4

Fu-shô-fu-metsu

They neither arise nor perish.

144.5

**Fu-ku-fu-jô Fu-zô-fu-gen Ze-ko-
kuu-chuu**

They are neither pure nor impure.
They neither increase or decrease.
Thus in emptiness

mu-shiki-mu-ju-sô-gyô-shiki-kai

there is no form, no feeling, no per-
ception, no mentality, no conscious-
ness.

mu-mu-myô-yaku-mu-mu-myô-jin

Nai-shi-mu-rô-shi

There is no ignorance nor end to
ignorance. There is no old age and
death...

**Yaku-mu-rô-shi-jin Mu-ku-shuu-
metsu-dô**

And no end to old age and death.
There is no suffering, no arising, no
cessation, no path.

Mu-chi-yaku-mu-toku-i Bo-dai-sat-ta

There is no wisdom, and no attainment. The Bodhisattva

E-han-nya-ha-ra-mit-ta-ko

abides in the perfection of wisdom, and has a mind free of hindrances.

Page 145

145.1

Shô-ken-go-un-kai-kuu

The five skandhas are empty

Do-is-sai-ku-yaku Sha-ri-shi

and free of suffering.

Shiki-fu-i-kuu Ku-fu-i-shiki

Form is not different from emptiness, emptiness not different from form.

145.2

Shiki-soku-ze-kuu

Form is indeed emptiness.

kuu-soku-ze-shiki

Emptiness is indeed form.

145.3

Ju-sô-gyô-shiki

Feeling, perception, mentality

Yaku-bu-nyo-ze

and consciousness are also like this.

Sha-ri-shi

Oh Shariputra,

145.4

Ze-sho-hô-kuu-sô Fu-shô-fu-metsu

all dharmas have the nature of emptiness. They neither arise nor perish.

Fu-ku-fu-jô Fu-zô-fu-gen Ze-ko-kuu-chuu

They are neither pure nor impure. They neither increase or decrease. Thus in emptiness

mu-shiki-mu-ju-sô-gyô-shiki-kai

there is no form, no feeling, no perception, no mentality, no consciousness.

mu-mu-myô-yaku-mu-mu-myô-jin

There is no ignorance nor end to ignorance.

Nai-shi-mu-rô-shi

There is no old age and death

Yaku-mu-rô-shi-jin Mu-ku-shuu-metsu-dô

and no end to old age and death. There is no suffering, no arising, no cessation, no path.

Mu-chi-yaku-mu-toku-i

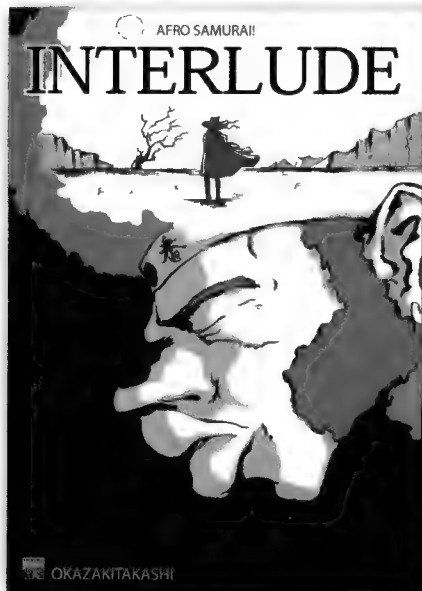
There is no wisdom, and no attainment.

Bo-dai-sat-ta E-han-nya-ha-ra-mit-ta-ko

The Bodhisattva abides in the perfection of wisdom, and has a mind free of hindrances.

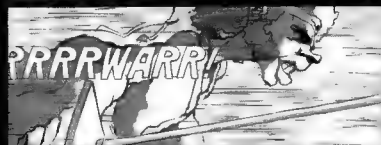
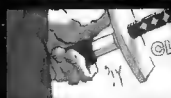
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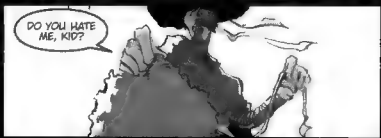
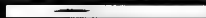
ORIGINAL DOUJINSHI PAGES



AFRO SAMURAI first began life as a *doujinshi* series in Japan before making the leap to animation and then back to manga. Presented here are eight of Okazaki-sensei's original Afro Samurai *doujinshi* pages featuring the iconic sequence that made Afro the bad-ass mutha he is today.









I'M GOING TO
BE NO. 1 FROM
NOW ON.



BUT TELL
YOU WHAT...

YOU CAN BE
NO. 2.



COME FIND ME
WHEN YOU'RE
READY.



CREATOR BIO

TAKASHI OKAZAKI

Born in 1974 in Kanagawa, Japan.
Graduated from Tama Art University with a BA in Sculpture.

Okazaki's field of creative activity focuses on illustrations but also extends to manga, CD jacket design, sculpture, and live painting performance.

AFRO SAMURAI was originally a doujinshi manga by Okazaki that first appeared in the independent magazine *Nou Nou Hau*, and was then made into an animated TV series by GONZO. The series stars Samuel L. Jackson (who is also one of the Executive Producers), and is furnished with music composed by the hip-hop maestro RZA. After the successful US broadcast on Spike TV in 2007, the show was edited for theatrical release in Japan. DVDs are now available in six countries. Its adaptation into a Hollywood live-action film is also under way.

Representative Works:

- Designed "Metro-Taro," a fictional mascot character used in the live-action film *Negotiator* *Mashita Masayoshi*
- Designed "Wangan-kun," a fictional mascot character used in the live-action film *Bayside Shakedown 2*
- Provided concept design and key art for the fictional animation that appears in the live-action film *Space Travelers*
- Provided design for CD jacket and concert merchandise of Japanese rock band RIZE
- Provided artwork for the special edition of *Spider-Man 2* DVD
- Provided comic drawings for booklet of *Blade: Trinity* soundtrack CD



Nothing personal . . . it's just
REVENGE

IT IS SAID that he who wears the No. 1 headband shall rule the world. It is also said that only he who wears the No. 2 headband may challenge the No. 1.

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With the No. 2 band around his forehead, Afro sets out to give Justice his due. But with scores of assassins and two-bit warriors eager to kill the No. 2 and take his place as top contender, will he survive long enough to avenge his father's death?

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MANGA



ALL AROUND US IT IS THERE

THE MATRIX HE IS

ALL AROUND US IT IS THERE

IT IS THERE WHEN YOU WATCH

AND US IT IS THERE WHEN YOU

AND US IT IS THERE WHEN YOU

AND US IT IS THERE WHEN YOU

AND US IT IS THERE WHEN YOU

AND US IT IS THERE WHEN YOU

AND US IT IS THERE WHEN YOU

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